

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
State/Territory: North Carolina

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATIONS

Categorical determinations are advance group determinations that clearly indicate nursing facility services are needed due to certain diagnoses, level of severity of illness, or need for a particular service. Categorical determinations do not exempt an individual from PASARR. Individuals falling into one of these seven categories may require further evaluation either through a Level II or an Annual Resident Review. North Carolina has seven instances where categorical determinations can be applied.

Emergency: Refers to immediate need for placement as a protective service measure. This standard applies if:

- a. based on the MI/MR individual's physical and/or environmental status, there is a sudden and unexpected need for immediate NF placement; and
- b. the above need requires temporary placement up to 7 days until alternative services/placement can be secured and no other placement options are available.

Delirium: A condition whereby the presence of delirious state precluded the ability of the referral source to determine Level I measures and there is a subsequent need to allow the delirium to clear before proceeding with that screen. Up to seven (7) days of NF care is allowed pending further assessment. Delirium is an acute organic mental syndrome. It is a medical emergency that demands identifications of the cause as rapidly as possible. Delirium is a categorical determination that nursing facility care is needed, however, only up to seven days is allowed before further screening must be done.

Respite Care: For In-Home Caregivers of Individuals with MR or MI - Up to seven (7) consecutive days of NF care is allowed. Individuals with MR/DD or MI who need short-term placement can be admitted for up to 7 days to give the caregiver temporary relief.

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Dementia/MR: The individual has a primary diagnosis of dementia existing in combination with mental retardation or related condition. In conjunction with having been diagnosed with mental retardation, the individual is also diagnosed with dementia suffering further loss of cognitive and intellectual functions which are severe and interfere with functioning ability. The essential deficit is loss of memory, both short and long-term. Abstract thinking and judgments are further impaired. Specialized services can be waived.

Terminal Illness: The individual has a medical prognosis that his/her life expectancy is six months or less. An individual with mental illness or mental retardation who is not a danger to self or others and has a medical prognosis that his/her life expectancy is six months or less may be admitted to a nursing facility. The need for specialized services must be based on an individualized evaluation.

Convalescent Care in excess of 30 days, but not to exceed 60 days: The individual requires convalescent care from an acute physical illness following hospitalization. Individuals in the category are not exempt from PASARR. An individual with mental illness or mental retardation who is not a danger to self or others may be admitted to a nursing facility for care in excess of 30 days, but not to exceed 60 days for convalescent care as a result of an acute physical illness following a hospitalization. The need for specialized services must be based on an individualized evaluation.

Severe Medical Condition: The individual with MI or MR may not be expected to benefit from specialized services due to the level of impairment of a severe medical condition such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington's disease, coma, ventilator dependent, congestive heart failure, obstructive pulmonary disease, Parkinson's disease, advanced multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cerebellar degeneration, cardiovascular accident, end state renal disease, severe diabetic neuropathies, quadriplegia, refractory anemias. The need for specialized services must be based on an individualized evaluation depending on the severity of the illness. Further evaluation is not necessary for individuals experiencing coma or in a persistent vegetative state.

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